



Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Release Reporting Advisory Committee
October 31, 2007
Notes from the Kick-off Meeting

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introduction

Yvonne Bolton, Bureau Chief, Materials Management and Compliance Assurance Bureau opened the Release Report Advisory Committee Kick-off Meeting at approximately 9:40 am. Chief Bolton asked the participants to provide their names and affiliations so that everyone would have an opportunity to meet. The audience make up included approximately 47 stakeholders and 10 DEP staff. It was remarked by Yvonne that the audience gathered today to be part of this new DEP initiative represented a diverse arena of stakeholders. Extended to the audience was a formal thank you for coming and for devoting their time to this DEP initiative.

The Advisory Committee is charged with advising the DEP on the reporting of releases. The overall mission was expressed as “to develop recommendations for a strategy to define the reporting of releases to the DEP under CGS, Section 22a-450.”

Agenda Item 2 – Charge to the Advisory Committee

Gina McCarthy, DEP Commissioner expressed the goal for fair reporting regulations that industry and citizens can live with. The Commissioner announced that it is the intention of the DEP to move in the direction of bridging the reporting regulations with the affirmative duty to clean up, with timeframes. The Commission articulated that she wants a product that all can be proud of and to find resolutions to difficult problems. The Commissioner indicated that the Advisory Group should not start back from scratch and pick up where the 94 regulations. The Commissioner communicated that the Advisory Committee shall serve in an advisory position and that DEP may not always agree. DEP will make the decisions however; will consider all comments. The Commissioner reiterated that the Release Reporting Regulations are important because of environment, public health impacts and economics specifically clarity to business. Other Commissioner talking points included:

- Laws for cleanup are patch worked, too many gaps exist;
- Currently no requirement to cleanup, cleanup economically important to cities (dead space unused);
- Desire to change current views of remediation;
- Desire more defined timelines for cleanups;
- Continue to develop rules and move forward;
- Future considerations consider while creating regulations (to be dealt with by future undetermined group);
- How can we develop a system over the next three years, to effectively remediate, to increase cleanups and redevelopment in urban areas? and,

- Need to keep the regulations as simple as possible.

The Commissioner introduced the two co-chairs who will serve as facilitators and keep the advisory committee ahead or on schedule. The two co-chairs announced were:

Mark DeCaprio, MPH

-DEP, Director, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division

Carol Violette, PhD in Physical Chemistry

-CHMM- Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, Masters Level since 1992.

-Serves on the LEP Board of Examiners

Agenda Item 3 – Operating Protocols

Carol Violette provided that structure and operating procedures to the Advisory Committee. Refer to the presentation that is on the DEP website.

Agenda Item 4 –Overview of Spill/Release Activity

Mark DeCaprio stated that the main goal of his DEP Emergency Response Unit is to protect the health and safety of people and the environment and provided a presentation on the diverse variety of spill types and problems responded to by the Unit. Mark reported that the main types of spill/release activities include commercial (production/manufacturing), industrial, and storage or disposal issues. Other details included:

- Approximately 8,000 calls per year;
 - large portion are transportation related (planes, railroads, cars, trucks, etc) or residential property issues.
- DEP has a 20-25% actual on-site response rate;
- Of those calls that DEP does not physically respond, the DEP does provide technical assistance to a significant number of callers;
- Issues arise when dealing with contamination of shallow aquifers with petroleum and deep aquifers with chlorinated solvents;
- Significant amounts of asbestos dumping;
- Nonpoint source discharges that includes either sewage, septic or pesticides;
- Transfer line releases;
- Mercury spills in schools; and,
- Dumping – example storm drains.

Agenda Item 5 – Background Information – CGS & Past Initiatives

Peter Zack, Assistant Director, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Division gave a presentation on known past initiatives and new laws implemented since the 1994 regulations or 1998 Advisory Committee Report. Peter restated that the Commissioner does not want to start at ground zero with the development of Release Regulations. Refer to the presentation for specifics.

Agenda Item 6 – Open Discussion – Work Group Tasks

Mark DeCaprio and Carol Violette served as the facilitators for an active dialogue among the stakeholders and DEP. The meeting embraced a brainstorming session regarding steps to take to achieve the Commissioner and Bureau Chief's schedule. The discussion focused on comments and then geared towards the forming of Work Groups. Several stakeholders expressed their

opinions on the new project. Stakeholders were encouraged to send their written comments to dep.mmca@po.state.ct.us.

Agenda Item 7 – Next Step – Call for Participants to Serve on Workgroups

During the meeting, a significant portion of time was set-aside on the agenda to discuss the next steps of the Advisory Committee. It was concluded by the audience that many Work Groups may have common topics therefore it would be best to consolidate. Also noted was the length of some of the Work Groups. The following is a list of all the Work Group topics voiced by the members. It was mentioned the Work Group information will be made available on the DEP website including any procedures and DEP contacts. *Topics appear in alpha order*

- Closure
- Data Management
- Definitions
- Existing Models
- Federal Regulations
- General Parameters
 - Exceptions
 - Inside
 - Thresholds
 - Clarity
 - Reporting requirements
- Geography/Demographics, receptor, locations, aquifer protection areas
- Historical Releases
- Integration/Simplicity
- Other State Reporting/Models of Other State Reporting Requirements
 - Massachusetts
 - Michigan
 - Federal
 - Fire Departments
- Reporting Procedures Form
- Risk Assessment

Initial Work Groups

Signup sheets were made available to begin the Advisory Committee Work Group process. It was stated that there might be some areas of overlap among the workgroups.

- ◆ Closure,
- ◆ Historical Releases,
- ◆ Integration/Simplicity and
- ◆ Other State Reporting/Models.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

The Kick-off Meeting of the Release Reporting Advisory Committee ended approximately 11:45 am.